

THE RIO NEWS.

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NUMBER 22

WILSON, SONS & CO. (LIMITED)

2, PRAÇA DAS MARINHAS
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a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the com-
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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICES:—

79, Rua Sete de Setembro

RIO DE JANEIRO, JUNE 2nd, 1891.

The decision of the minister of finance upon the protest against the proposed 2 per cent. dock tax upon imports, is certainly wrong. It is proposed to build an expensive, obstructive and wholly unnecessary system of docks in this bay under a concession to the Conde de Figueiredo, afterwards sold to the Obras Hydraulicas company, and to impose a 2 per cent. surtax on all imports for their particular advantage, whether landed at these docks, or not. As the enterprise is purely a private speculation, and not a necessary public work, the merchants were fully justified in their protest against this tax, and the minister is not justified in supporting the same on the ground that the projected works are a public improvement. Nothing is more certain than that these same works will be a serious obstruction to this harbor, as well as an unpopular means for imposing further burdens on commerce. It is absurd in the first place to build closed masonry docks in a deep-water bay where the tide exerts so slight an influence. Such docks are unnecessary, and the money expended on them will be wholly wasted. Skeleton piers running out from the shore would cost only a small fraction of the money and would meet all the requirements of commerce more economically and more advantageously than the projected docks. Under these circumstances, it can not be shown that the Figueiredo scheme is a necessary public improvement, nor that the government has a right to tax commerce for its support.

We should like to call the attention of our Brazilian friends to one very serious fact—he continued existence here of epidemic yellow fever and the immense injury which it is causing to the name and commerce of this port. It is bad enough to see the scores of good men carried away to the cemeteries because of the incompetence and neglect of those entrusted with the administration of this city, but it is still worse when we find that not only is the reputation of the city suffering serious discredit, but also that the progress of the country is more or less restricted by the dread occasioned by these epidemics. We know of mercantile enterprises held back by the reports concerning this epidemic, and we know of decisions against settling here because of the terrible loss of life year after year from this cause alone. In view of the fact that the continued reappearance of yellow fever is largely due to the unsanitary condition of the city and the unhygienic customs of the people, the responsibility of course belongs to those who are entrusted with the administration of public affairs in this capital. This year almost nothing has been done to improve the sanitary condition of the city. The speculators have of course talked much about the removal of hills, the creation of new building areas by the filling in of the shore line, and the construction of hygienic houses, but the Gamboa and Saúde districts remain untouched, the badly paved and filthy back streets remain uncleaned, the pestiferous rain water drains remain clogged with dirt and filth washed in from the pavements, and the enclosures of many a tenement house and private residence are permitted to exist under conditions which render them veritable breeding places of disease. Much of the unhealthfulness of Rio de Janeiro is due solely to the ignorance and uncleanness of its population, and the remedy therefore lies in an intelligent correction of these conditions. Clean streets and sewers, clean and well ventilated dwellings, good food and ordinarily decent habits will do much toward securing this city against these periodical returns of yellow fever, while without them all the pretensions schemes so frequently brought forward will be wholly in vain.

WHILE we may not doubt the sincerity of Sr. Tannay in calling the recently published confession of faith of the aged Emperor "one of the finest, most sincere and most respected documents of Brazilian history," we shall most assuredly dispute his good judgment not only on the document itself, but in giving it out for publication. It is without doubt one of the most self-condemnatory confessions ever published. We can not doubt the patriotism and good purposes of the Emperor, but the painful part of it is the self-evident fact that while he tried so much he accomplished almost nothing. He was a dilettante in statecraft as well as in science and letters, and his example had a terribly fatal effect on every one around him. Dilettantism has been the bane of Brazilian political and intellectual life from the very beginning, and much of the blame for all this must rest on the shoulders of the man who dabbled in everything new and then failed utterly to engraft either the letter or spirit of any sound measure in the hearts of his people. The verdict of history will not be against his amiable and patriotic purposes nor against his benevolence of heart and simplicity of character, but it will be against him as a ruler who failed to understand the conditions which surrounded him, and who failed to accomplish the destiny which fate had thrust upon him. While he was dreaming of free instruction, fine arts, universities, philosophy, religion, and all that, fully nine-tenths of his subjects groveled in ignorance and poverty. He studied the economic questions of his day, and then permitted a handful of landowners to dominate his country, and control legislation for their own selfish uses. He dreamed of the abolition of slavery, while at the same time frowning upon it as an interference with vested rights. He desired to improve the condition and extend the political rights of his people, and yet left them at the mercy of some of the most unscrupulous politicians who ever manipulated an election or directed the course of legislation. It may be that there has been no improvement in this respect since the overthrow of the monarchy, but the truth still must be confessed that D. Pedro II did not improve his opportunities to advance the best interests of his

country. In view of this fact and because of the sympathy which we feel for him, we heartily regret the publication of this document. It may have been written only for the perusal of a few old friends, and through an impulse which he could not resist; in such case it was heartless to give it so great a publicity.

We trust it will not be forgotten in the United States in the heat and hurry of preparations for the "commercial invasion of South America," that after all only two things are really needed for the work—a capital and commercial enterprise. It is a waste of time and effort to send scouting parties to spy out the land, for the routes of commerce have long been known and every well informed merchant knows exactly what the elements of that commerce must be. It is not pillage that the merchant is after; it is simply an exchange of products. If he wants to know what those products are, let him consult any geography and find out how far his destination is from the equator. In the case of Brazil he will not find the slightest difficulty in deciding that buffalo robes and warming pans may be left at home. Enough has certainly been written about Brazil to give him some idea of the wants and preferences of the people. Flourishing American houses were in existence here over fifty years ago, and others can just as readily be established now. There was a time, in the old days when commerce depended more on individual enterprise and less upon official aid, when a merchant made it his business to know personally all about the markets where he proposed to trade. He never dreamed of waiting for a roving commission composed of a lawyer and a journalist to prepare the way, nor for consular officials to tell him what to do. The two guides required for his enterprise were skill, or commercial training, and personal observation, and these guides are just as necessary now as ever they were. It may be predicted that no successful trade will ever be built up by floating exhibitions, nor by commercial travellers. If American merchants will establish commercial houses in South America and give their personal attention to the development of trade, their chances of success are just as good as those of any other nationality. And there has not been a time within the past twenty-five years when American houses might not have been established just as easily as German or English houses. We have in this city a number of important American manufacturers represented by foreign business houses, and we have a number of staple American products handled solely by foreign merchants. That American products are sold here at all is almost wholly due to Englishmen, Germans, Portuguese and Brazilians. This is something for the "invaders" to think before starting, and if it shall lead to the exportation of a few live American merchants our suggestions will not be in vain.

STRANGE INCONSISTENCIES.

To the Editor of The Rio News.

Sir,—You have earned the sincere thanks of all humane and thoughtful persons by your recent articles on the above hospital, and for inserting in your issue of the 28th ult. the article from O'Fallon. Anything more ghastly and barbarous than the state of things set forth in that article can hardly be imagined, and the central government, which has hitherto allowed these things to exist under its eyes, must surely at length feel that it is on its trial before the civilized world for gross and shocking inhumanity. But whilst you have been calling attention to these things the thoughts of the good people of Rio have apparently been running in quite other directions. They are ambitious, it would seem, to tread in the steps of their Argentine neighbors, and must needs follow their example, as in other things, so also in their amusements. Did not Buenos Aires, just before the great crash and collapse, engage, regardless of expense, the most famous of European prima donnas? Then Rio must do the same, however fabulous may be the cost. Sober minded people must think that, with the notorious financial difficulties of the government, and with a disastrous commercial crisis impending, the time is ill chosen for such outrageously extravagant amusements; and certainly, if the vast sums to be spent on these entertainments were laid out in providing a remedy for the barfatty now going on at the yellow fever hospital, the civilized world would form a higher opinion of the good sense and right feeling of the Brazilian government and people. But in this squandering of thousands and tens of thousands of pounds to hear a favorite singer, whilst hundreds of poor yellow fever patients are being done to death through the most cruel neglect we do not see an instance of that strange inconsistency which seems characteristic of Brazil? A sweet unreasonableness, a lack of all sense of fitness and proportion, from time to time startles a stranger.

A few days ago one of the deputies of this state returned from Rio. I have not heard that the gen-

tleman has rendered any important service to his constituents or to his country, or that he has distinguished himself in any way whatever as a representative of the state, but from the reception given to him on his return, you would suppose him to have been the saviour of his country, or at least a successful general returning with the glory and spoils of many victories. Our principal streets were profusely decorated with fireworks, bands of music and speeches. A special train, gorgeous with flags, conveyed three hands of music to our hero's house, whilst some sixty carriages formed the procession which attended our illustrious fellow citizen in his residence.

Well, all this is very fine, but whilst our good citizens thus indulge their patriotic feelings regardless of cost, the authorities have not the means, or do not see the need, of providing decent roads along the city.

An American writer once said that "funerals are much cultivated at Pernambuco," and certainly the number of carriages that daily follow the dead is not a little remarkable. Yet the principal road leading to the public cemetery is such that you may sometimes see a hearse actually stuck fast in the mud, and the driver be not very careful to dislodge the funerals, and yet in his way, he must continually overturn his vehicle. It is no uncommon thing for carriages following the hearse to come to a stand in attempting to plow their way through the deep sand, the mourners being compelled to descend, and perhaps help the overtaxed horses. There is one part of this road that was formerly macadamized, but sixteen years ago it was already needing repairs; but nothing as yet has been done to it, and now this part of the road is perhaps the most dangerous of all.

It was fortunate for our political hero that he did not have here in the midst of an ordinary wet season, for had he done so it is pretty safe to assert that at least half of the sixty carriages forming the triumphal procession would have failed to reach the end of their journey.

The last time I had the pleasure of passing that way in a carriage was in the company of an English bishop. When within half a mile of our hero's house and on the main road, we came upon a large patch that was of deep wet clay which extended right across the road, so there was no way to avoid it. Our cattle marched straight in and then came to a dead stand in spite of the most vigorous flogging. The unfortunate bishop and his companion managed to struggle out in some way, leaving the carriage in the slough and performing the rest of their journey on foot.

It is, I believe, generally understood that decent passable roads are among the first requisites of civilization. This, however, is plainly not the view of people here. Carriages they must have, but roads on which to drive them seem to be matters of no consequence.

All this reminds me of the story of the poor honest girl who one day lost the good fortune of a half a sovereign. She had neither shoes nor stockings, and her new-sexy clothing was of the scantiest. She had, however, lately passed a window adorned with feathers and linnens, whither she now hastened, and there, unmindful of her real wants, she lay on her new found wealth on the saddest bed gear she can find.

Your obedient servant,
A FRIENDLY STRANGER.
Pernambuco, May 15, 1891.

From Bradstreet's, March 21, 1891.

THE COMMERCIAL INVASION OF SOUTH AMERICA.

The development of trade with Central and South American countries, particularly with Brazil, under the new treaty, is a frequent topic of discussion among manufacturers and commercial organizations. The methods involved in such commerce are known to be wholly different from those in use here in our domestic trade, or in our intercourse with European nations. The general knowledge of the character and wants of these new markets, which have been or are soon to be thrown open to our products, is very limited. But few of the customs reports give the necessary information. A thorough study of any of these markets has not been made by any agent of the government. A few private corporations have acquired, through correspondents, information sufficient to carry on successfully trade in their special lines. Manufacturers must gain through personal contact with southern dealers a knowledge of the extent of the demand there existing for their products, and the changes necessary to be made in their construction to adapt them to the different environments to which the southern consumer is subjected.

To afford the means for securing this acquaintance and for studying southern markets a fleet of three vessels, carrying American products of almost every description, and accompanied by the manufacturers or representatives of the same, is about to be sent on a cruise to the principal ports of Central and South America. The company in charge of the expedition was chartered March 13. The three vessels to be used are the steamer *Colorado* of 2,322 net tons, the *Valencia* of 1,198 tons, and the *San Marco* of 2,500 tons. The *San Marco* will be reserved for carrying agricultural and other heavy machinery, while the other two steamers will be filled with products of lighter weight and smaller bulk. The vessels will leave New York about June 1 and the cruise will cover about five months. Stops will be made on the outward trip at Havana, Pará, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Montevideo, Buenos Aires and Rosario, and returning at some of the largest ports of the West Indies, Caracas in Venezuela, Cartagena in Colombia and Vera Cruz in Mexico. Warehouses have been rented from New York merchants in Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires and some of the other ports, where exhibits will be made of the machinery and other heavier products. It is hoped that a system of banking can be established which will relieve exporters of the necessity of transacting such business through London.

Hon. Gardner G. Hubbard said at the annual meeting of the Boston Boot and Shoe Association: "What we produce they do not raise; their products are not ours. The one is, therefore, the complement of the other. For successful prosecution of any trade between two countries it is essen-

tial that each should produce what the other lacks. Thus we raise breadstuffs which are not grown on the borders of the Caribbean sea, in the valley of the Amazon, nor in Ecuador, Colombia or Peru, and manufacture goods required in all parts of South America. Articles which we require are produced there. Here, therefore, are the factors necessary for a prosperous trade."

Comparing the character and amounts of the exports from these countries with their imports, it would seem that there is much truth in the general statement that they buy all they consume and sell all they produce. Whatever may be the immediate outcome of this traveling exposition of our manufacturers, the ultimate result cannot but be beneficial to the trade between the South American countries and this.

RIO PORT IMPROVEMENTS.

The following answer from the minister of finance to the merchants of Rio, who petitioned against the levying of a surtax of 2 per cent. *ad valorem* on the white importation of this port for the benefit of the *Ola* is Hydraulic company, was published on the 30th ult.

"The question raised by the petitioners has no plausible foundation in view of Art. 7 of the Law of October 15th, 1886, which established a general tax for the improvement of the ports of the republic, and in virtue of which this tax was conceded to the 'Empresa de Melhoramentos' of the port of this Federal Capital.

"No limitation is contained in the said law as regards the obligation of payment of this surtax to which are subjected vessels entering this same port, the improvements of which are advantageous to all."

"I, therefore, refuse the application of the petitioners."

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

— In Ayras, S. Paulo, a house was raided by burglars of 5,200\$ a few days since.

— In Rio Claro, S. Paulo, a merchant was recently robbed by burglars of 4,000\$.

— The election of a deputy to succeed minister João Barbalho has been postponed to Aug. 18th.

— The committee on the constitution in the Rio de Janeiro legislature made its report on the 27th ult.

— At S. Benedicto, in the municipal district of Campos, there died on the 15th ult. a woman said to be 120 years old.

— At the station of Luz, S. Paulo, on the 27th ult. a planter was robbed of 4,000\$ in money and of a note for 30,000\$.

— Some excitement has been caused to Sergipe by the dismissal of the provisional governor on the eve of the gubernatorial election.

— In Juiz de Fora two persons have asked the municipal council for an exclusive privilege for manufacturing matches in that city.

The state constitution of Piauí was promulgated on the 28th ult., and Dr. Gabriel Luiz Ferreira was elected governor of the state.

— The cruisers *Liberdade* and *Primeiro de Maio* and the iron-clad *Bahia*, which were sent to Santos during the strike, left that port on the 26th ult.

— The legislature of Santa Catharina has resolved to memorialize the general government against the reciprocity agreement with the United States.

— In consequence of the increase in duties and their collection in gold, the Porto Alegre press has raised the price of government advertisements. Good!

— A telegram from Pará, dated the 29th ult., says that the police of that city has succeeded in preventing a strike of the street car conductors and drivers.

— The municipal council of Juiz de Fora, S. Paulo, has contracted for the illumination of the city with electric light, and also for a water supply and for sewerage works.

— Up to the 21st ult. 309,091 head of cattle had been received at the Talhada at Pelotas against 250,007 up to the same date in 1890. The prices varied from 20\$ to 40\$ a head.

— It has been reported in Espírito Santo that Gov. Aguirre is to be dismissed on account of his letter calling President Deodoro a *graciosa besta*. And very properly so, too!

— In Guarany, Minas Geraes, a mulatto woman named Rozaria threw her one year old child into a river. The child was found clinging to some bushes at the water's edge and was saved.

— In Alagoas the candidates for the office of governor are Senator Pedro Paulino (brother of President Deodoro), Dr. Gahino Besouro (an opposition deputy) and Dr. Fimbrício de Araújo.

— There were 112 deaths in Fortaleza, Ceará, in the month of April, which is a very large number for so small a town. Why is it not possible to improve the sanitary condition of these towns?

— If the effect of Dr. Koch's lymphitis to increase one's appetite, as the experiment in Campinas seems to prove, we certainly cannot recommend it to the public with provisions at their present price.

— It is stated that in the recent election in S. Paulo the highest vote of the government candidates was 27,859, that of the Campos-Salles-Glycero candidates 9,693, and that of the Catholic candidates 1,552.

— Albé Chelmicki has visited 17 colonies in the state of Paraná and it is stated that he is very much pleased with what he has seen. The governor took good care to provide the abbé with the right kind of an attendant.

— The electors of Mococa have addressed a letter to Dr. Jesuino de Cardoso promising to vote for him in the election for deputy. If Mococa makes mistakes sometimes, it is not for want of effort to keep on the winning side.

—Small-pox has made its appearance in several provincial towns.

—The formal opening of the Paraná constituent assembly occurred on the 30th ult.

—The steamer *Hurax* received at Victoria 4,900 bags of coffee valued at 250,680,000.

—The preparatory sessions of the Espírito Santo constituent assembly were opened on the 1st inst.

—There was a fight in Santos on the 29th ult. between parties of Italians and Portuguese, several being injured on both sides.

—There is a lack of water in S. Paulo, and much complaint against the Companhia Cantareira. The latter has demonstrated, however, that the supply at the Cantareira sources is much below the normal quantity.

—The S. Paulo constituent assembly began its preparatory sessions on the 1st inst. A proposal was made to elect the governor before adopting the constitution, which would be a very strange proceeding, at best.

—The unquenchable tribune, Martins Junior, left Pernambuco for this capital on the 31st ult. In Alagoas the constituent assembly received him with exceptional honors and gave him an opportunity to make a speech.

—The S. Paulo police is going to rent a room for the purpose of establishing a permanent exhibition of the photographs of pick-pockets, burglars and murderers. It ought to compete with Mme. Tousseau's chamber of horrors.

—It is stated that Gen. Cesario Alvim has declined the directorship of a bank on the ground that he is a candidate for the presidency of Minas Geraes. He entertains no doubts, however, as to his fitness for a bank presidency!

—In the jail of Cachoeira, Bahia, a prisoner accused of robbery, borrowed a suit of clothes from a fellow prisoner in order that he might present a respectable appearance before the jury. He was acquitted and then forgot to return the borrowed clothes.

—The preparatory sessions of the São Paulo constituent assembly were opened yesterday. The name of Dr. Azevedo Braziliense, provisional governor and recently appointed minister of finance, is almost the only one mentioned for the governorship.

—The Paulista theatrical company is going to erect a large building for plays, concerts and crimes. The ground has already been bought and the work on the building will shortly begin. We trust that were fencing will be used as sparingly as possible in the enterprise.

—Dr. Koch's lymph has been injected into three persons in Campinas. It is stated that the appetite of one of the patients has greatly increased, but this must be a mistake, as we have always understood that the effect of the lymph is to cure and not to promote consumption.

—There was a stormy scene in the Sergipe legislature on the 26th. The president wished to promulgate the constitution before it was engrossed and to proceed at once to the gubernatorial election. Against this some of the members protested, and the sitting closed in the midst of uproar.

—One of the first steps taken by a candidate for the governorship of Sergipe was to visit the quarrel and compliment the officers and soldiers on their discipline. There may be no Irish vote to conciliate in Brazil, but the military element seems to be playing that rôle with conspicuous success.

—On the 30th ult. a powder factory exploded at Pará killing 5 men certainly and it is suspected there are more victims. About a ton-and-a-half of powder was in the factory. These explosions seem to be becoming very frequent at Pará, for, if we are not mistaken, this is the third within a few months.

—A telegram of the 29th ult. from Alagoas, says that the election of Gen. Deodoro's brother, Pedro Paulino, to the office of governor of that state is considered certain and that the present governor is working to have himself elected lieutenant-governor. He has informed the legislature of what it is expected to do.

—A collision occurred at the mouth of the Pará river on the 9th ult. between the Portuguese bark *Fortuna* and the British steamer *Andover*. The former was bound from Manaus to London with a cargo of castanets and suffered damages to an estimated amount of 5,000\$. The steamer sustained damages estimated at 8,000\$.

—The state of affairs in Fomigna, Minas Geraes, is by no means pleasant. According to a local paper, the municipal judge has written to the minister of justice informing him that the district judge, Deputy Pires Ferreira, the police delegate, Barão de Piumhi, and other important persons are disorderly, seditious and murderous.

—The cadets sent from Porto Alegre to S. Gabriel, on reaching the station of União, found that no conveyance had been provided for them and proceeded to make the rest of the journey on foot. The people of S. Gabriel, hearing of this, sent horses and carts to meet them, and the cadets entered the city in the midst of acclamations.

—The governor of S. Paulo has increased the pay of the employés of the secretary's department, of the treasury, of the public instruction bureau, of the insane asylum and of the penitentiary, and now the employés of the immigration bureau wish their pay increased also. But, who is to increase the pay of the taxpayer so as to enable him to meet all these extra expenses?

—Some of the members of the Rio de Janeiro legislature are circulating subscription papers to pay for a painting representing the opening of that body. They are wasting their time and money. The manner in which they were elected and the haste with which they chose Portella as governor and approved all of his acts without examination, will render them famous without the assistance of an historical painter.

—The Santos police have discovered a part of the goods stolen from the Lloyd Brasileiro warehouse in that city on the 22nd ult. In the house of an Italian peddler named Pietro, a cartman named Bica Murte was arrested, who confessed that he carried the stolen goods for Pietro. The indications are that they are both equally guilty of the crime.

—A telegram from Sergipe, dated the 29th ult., says that the acting governor of that state has declared the legislature adjourned to the 10th inst. The members of the legislature met at the hall of the municipal council and passed a motion declaring the adjournment illegal. The acting governor has posted troops at the legislative building to prevent the legislature from meeting. His object is said to be to gain time for maturing his plans to cause himself to be elected governor. This is what Brazilian republicans call the free organization of the states.

RAILROAD NOTES

—It is reported that the government has decided to permit the establishment of a new street-car line in this city.

—The municipal council of Rio Claro, S. Paulo, has approved the drawings of the tramway between that city and Limeira.

—A train was derailed on the 29th ult. on the Oeste railway, near Casa Branca, and several passengers and railway employés were injured.

—The minister of justice has instructed the president of the civil and criminal court to inquire whether the Macabé railway was transferred without payment of tax on the transfer.

—A later telegram from Pernambuco states that the accident on the Linoeiro railway on the 26th ult. was a derailment and not a collision as first reported. There were no deaths as was at first reported, but two passengers and two employés were wounded. The damage caused by the accident is estimated at 20,000\$.

—At the meeting of the shareholders of the Viação Férrea Sapucaia company on the 25th ult. a proposition was approved to change two shares with 70\$ paid for one 20\$ share, on which 50\$ per share will be called; to give one share for every four of these new shares upon which 20\$ will be credited and to make a call of 20\$ per share in the capital of the Sapucaia, Montes Claros, Victoria and São Paulo companies, against which will be credited what is due these companies by the Viação Férrea.

—The freight on a case of kerosene from Paraguará in Curitiba on the Paraná railway is 2\$800, besides the state tax which is 10% or 280 reis, making a total of 3\$080. On the Graciosa turnpike between the same two points the freight varies from 600 rs. to 1\$800. The freight on a case of matches is 1\$250 by the railway and 3\$000 by the turnpike, and on 15 kilos of iron 495 rs. by the former and from 200 to 250 by the latter. It would be interesting to know just why this road was built.

—A very singular occurrence took place at Cruzes on the night of the 27th ult. A clock and litter in the employ of the Minas and Rio company succeeded in deceiving the watchman at the locomotive sheds and obtained possession of a locomotive. The watchman suspected something wrong and gave the alarm, but before the police could be procured, the two men got up steam and started the locomotive up the line. Their steam gave out at the end of the first kilometre, however, where they were overtaken and placed under arrest. Whether they were drunk, or crazy, is not stated, but it is quite certain that no man in the full possession of his faculties would care to steal a railway locomotive.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—The Argentine government is preparing a measure for the termination of the port works.

—The irrepressible Roca now appears as a candidate for the Argentine vice-presidency on the ticket with General Mitre.

—The situation in Argentina seems to be becoming critical again. A telegram of the 31st ult. says that the troops are held in readiness.

—The British minister at Montevideo gave a dinner to the British merchants and others in that city on the 30th ult., in honor of the Queen's birthday.

—A "run" on the private banks is in progress in Buenos Aires. There was a general panic yesterday, and the banks and Congress were guarded by the police.

—The U. S. transport *Tallapoosa* and corvette *Essex* left Montevideo for Buenos Aires on the 19th ult. The British gunboat *Beagle* left on the same day for Buenos Aires and the Rio Uruguay.

—Saturday's gold quotations in Buenos Aires reached \$21.60 per pound sterling, or \$423 currency for \$100 gold. The situation was considered alarming, and precautions were taken to protect the banks and the bolso.

—The North American capitalists have sent a representative to this country to purchase large tracts of land for them. This is a lucky move for Argentina, as it means both an inflow of capital and civilization, two rather important items at the present time. —*Argentine News.*

—The Buenos Aires Provincial Bank has adopted the expedient of issuing visced checks against deposits, which will be received by that bank on the mortgage loan in payment of debts. The *Herald* says this will be a new issue of paper money to the amount of \$150,000,000.

—Failing to obtain the desired \$100,000,000 internal loan, the Argentine government ordered the subscribers received and then authorized the issue of bonds for the money paid in. The question appears to have been raised as to the propriety of keeping this money.

—According to our Montevideo exchanges the American and English naval officers there have been for some time very usefully employed in giving ministerial entertainments for the amusement of the people and the benefit of local charities. It may seem a little incongruous for a naval officer to devote so much attention to the billiarderies of life, but it is perhaps as good as anything else to kill time.

—General Donivan, the excellent governor of the Chaco, has recently returned from a tour over the widely-extended domain. Governor Donivan purposes trying the experiment of inundating Indian colonies at which the festive aborigine will be treated like a white man, and encouraged to show what he can do in showing forward the slow-going art of civilization. General Donivan deserves every encouragement in this humanitarian endeavor and we hope it may be given him by the public powers. —*Argentine News.*

—The proposed new Banco da República, of Buenos Aires, which is to take the place of the Banco Nacional, is to have a capital of \$30,000,000 currency and \$20,000,000 specie. It is to be self-governing (by the shareholders) except in regard to the chairman of the board of directors, who will be chosen by the government. Two "syndes" will be chosen, one by the government and the other by the shareholders. The bank is not to exercise its right of issue until the present currency is all called in. Until then the treasury will issue all the notes required. This currency, with a gold and paper capital will be watched with interest.

LOCAL NOTES

—An epidemic of crime and scandals is raging in this city and S. Paulo at the present time.

—The new minister of justice is expected to arrive from Bahia to-day. He is very much needed.

—It is said that the government is making an effort to hasten the settlement of the debt owing this country by Uruguay.

—On the 29th ult. a clerk who had gone to the Caixa da Amortização for exchanging old currency for new, had his pocket picked of 570\$.

—The government has authorized the municipal council to make a contract with Engenho Novo Alvaros and others for building a new market.

—Now that receipts of coffee are increasing and prices declining the export-boat companies up the price of his beverage from 60 rs. to 100 rs. per cup.

—The Botanical Garden tramway company has contributed 1,000\$ to the statue of the late Gen. Benjamin Constant, which is to be erected in front of the military school.

—On the 28th ult. Dr. Ferro Cardoso gave a public exhibition of his mechanical evaporator for making salt. He estimates that with this machine he can make salt at a cost of 70 reis a bushel.

—The Italian government has commissioned Prof. Vincenzo Grossi to visit Brazil for the purpose of making a special study of commerce and immigration. Prof. Grossi embarked for this port at Genova on the 31st ult.

—Deputy Honório Baptista says that it is not true that Gen. Glycerio clandestinely sold lands in the S. Gabriel snuck farm. What he did was to authorize, at the request of that dignity, the establishment of a colony on those lands.

—On the 30th ult. rumors were afloat as to the health of President Fonseca, but they proved to be much exaggerated, and the President is now so far recovered, from what is reported to have been an asthmatic attack, as to have left his bed.

—Our sympathies are extended to Sr. Candilho de Oliveira, secretary for war in the Ouro Preto government. The unfortunate man has no sooner returned from his exile, than he has been elected president of a company—the Villa Alfredo Minamita.

—The total number of deaths in this city during the past week was 390, of which 87 from yellow fever, 7 typhoid fever, 2 pernicious fever, 12 small-pox, 2 ber-beri, and 30 consumption. Of the total, 128 were classed as *indigentes* and buried at public expense.

—Perhaps someone interested will let us know how a shareholder in any of the numerous companies organized here feels when he examines the morning papers and finds a new *chamada* made upon his purse. Blasphemy will hardly serve such a case.

—It is worthy of attention that the valuations of free goods from the United States are now made at the highest possible figure so as to make the *5%* expedite yield as much as possible. It can hardly be considered an act of good faith to make these valuations much higher than the actual market price of the goods.

—It is a good sign to see that so many companies are threatening to confiscate the shares upon which impunctuous holders can no longer pay the calls. The directors will make a fat living out of these confiscated shares, but they will have to find some one to pay cash for them first; and in the meantime where are the salaries to come from?

—The Portuguese government has enabled Sr. Sebastião Pinho with the title of Conde de S. Sebastião de Pinho. As the new earl is a Portuguese subject he has every right to accept a title at his royal master's hands. What we are unable to understand is that a citizen of the Brazilian republic is willing to accept a title from these same royal hands.

—It is usually considered that one of the purposes of fusing two or more companies in one enterprise is to reduce expenses of administration. Here in Rio we know better than that; for when the Lloyd Brasileira was taken over by the Obras Publicas, the directors of the former, we hear, were all retained as managers of the "navigation branch" of the Obras Publicas.

—The sending off of Capt. Collatino Góes to Goyaz is another incident in the military question.

—The *Correio do Povo* of the 28th ult. contradicts the reports of the mutinous state of the police brigade.

—A lighter loaded with cargo from the English steamer *Leila*, was sunk by that steamer as it was leaving this port on the 26th ult.

—In consequence of the reports circulated in regard to the mutinous state of the police brigade, the government has ordered an investigation.

—The *Diário Oficial* of the 28th ult. contains the report of the employé appointed to inspect the Bahia custom-house. This employé reports many irregularities.

—It is stated that Visconde de Omon Frein and Conde de Lallyette will have professorships in the free law school that it is proposed to establish in this city.

—The sale of gold on government account is now continued in the custom-house, and there are complaints of the dilatory manner in which this service is performed.

—Col. Antonio Cesar Moreira has returned to this city and has been ordered to present a written statement of the part he took in the revolutionary movement in Amazonas.

—On the 27th ult. there was a collision of two train cars of the Carris Urbanos at the corner of Ruas Lavoura and Riachuelo. A leg of one of the passengers was broken.

—President Denham attended a drill of the firemen some days ago and escaped unharmed. A contemporary suggests that hereafter he shall be present when the troops are drilled in the manual of arms.

—The government has approved the drawings of the projected telephone line between S. Paulo and Santos. Just what the government has got to do with a S. Paulo telephone line is not explained.

—The *Jornal do Commercio* of the 27th ult. publishes a telegram from New York stating that a new line of packets between the United States and Brazil has been established.

—The 27th ult. was the birthday of Barão de Lacerda, who received many calls and letters of congratulation. Among the callers was the President of the republic. The Barão gave a dinner to his friends.

—The government has deputed the Italian Almirante Donati, accused of propagating socialist doctrines and inciting working-men to revolt. Almirante will probably double the statement hereafter that Brazil is a free republic.

—The committee appointed to examine the new penal code of the navy reports that this code, as published, contains some clerical errors that it is necessary to correct, but that in general the objections made in it are unfounded.

—Dr. Iluminato Ribeiro has been permitted to transfer to the Banco Viçosa do Brazil his contract with the government for selling immigrants. We trust the prospective immigrant has yielded Dr. Iluminato a good profit.

—After order has been restored to the finances of the country, which Gen. Ruy left in the utmost confusion, the next thing on the docket, says the *Tempo*, is to change the present electoral law, which, as that paper truly observes, is a blot on the legislation of the republic.

—Decree No. 337, of the 23rd ult., authorizes the expropriation of land at Nova Cintra on Santa Theresa hill for building an observatory in place of the one on Morro do Castello. Would it not be good policy to wait for a congressional appropriation?

—A very peculiar species of *bordado* was inaugurated on the 28th ult. It is to be known as "Bandeira Jr.," and already possesses a putney, or brick-factory, a tin-smith's shop and a sweetmeats and pickle factory; none of which seem to us proper features for a *bordado*.

—It is said that there is a man in this city who makes a business of buying old mattresses on the island of Sapucaia, where the garbage of the city is sent to be burned, and of selling the straw to upholsterers. The board of health ought to make this man's acquaintance, and without any ceremony.

—Demetrius Uripa and others have requested the government to give them an exclusive privilege for 20 years for manufacturing Singer sewing machines and to prohibit during this time the importation of foreign sewing machines. The government has declined to grant this modest request.

—At 1 o'clock p. m. on the 29th ult., two shots were fired into the residence of Dr. Sálles Guerra, situated at No. 32, Rua do Marquês de Abrantes. One of these shots took effect in the frame of a mirror, and the other wounded a servant girl who was cleaning the glass. The police is trying to learn who fired the shots.

—A Lisbon telegram of the 29th ult. states that the capitalist Sebastião Pinho has secured the title of count from the Portuguese government. Since titles have been abolished here, that government has the field to itself and seems disposed to make the most of it. The Portuguese revenue from Brazilian vassalry ought to be considerable.

—The custom-house officials secured a quantity of contraband jewellery and precious stones on the 28th which are valued at about 2,000\$. It was attempted to smuggle the articles in the lining of a case containing a silver tea-service which was received by the steamer *Magdalen* and consigned to the firm of Levy Irmãos & Co.

—On the 28th ult. the *Diário Oficial* published a report from a special Treasury agent sent to examine the Bahia custom-house, in which the most serious charges are made against the employés. So serious are these charges that it seems impossible for the minister of finance to do anything but dismiss the whole of the staff at the Bahia custom-house.

Cape of Good Hope	2,000	
River Plate and West Coast.....	751	2,751
		<u>72,600</u>

May 30th. 1891.

<i>Capital</i>	<i>Capital paid up</i>	<i>Revenue fund</i>	<i>Companies</i>	<i>Dividend paid</i>	<i>Nominai value</i>	<i>Last sale</i>	<i>Closing quotation</i>
400,000	100,000 \$	..	Agri. Coloniz. de Vasconcelos	..	200 \$	1988000	..
250,000	75,000	20,000	Agri. e Vigão Fluminense	4 000—Jan. 91	60	200	..
758,400	758,400	..	Carmagens Fluminense	10 000—Jan. 91	200	218 000	..
300,000	300,000	..	Comercio e Industria ..	..	2 00	200 000	..
300,000	300,000	..	Comercio e Estac. de Cofe	9000—Jan. 91	60	50 000	..
16,000,000	4,500,000	..	Empresa de Obras Publicas	10 1/2—Jan. 91	200	410 000	..
..	550,000	..	do 7 series ..	10 1/2—Jan. 91	100	300 000	300800
17,500,000	7,250,000	..	Espectaculada de Cofe ..	..	60	50 000	50 000
20,000,000	4,000,000	..	Eventas Fluminense ..	..	40	40 000	..
400,000	..	..	Ind. e Colonizador do Brazil	..	60	..	..
..	1,000,000	..	Ind. e Vigão de Cofe ..	..	100	180 000	..
220,000	220,000	220,000	Industrial Fum. (Kasques)	..—Jan. 91	50	50 000	..
100,000	40,000	..	Alcobaforas no Brazil ..	6 000—Jan. 91	80	95 000	..
100,000	100,000	..	do do Rio ..	5 000—Jan. 91	200	145 000	94500—95 000
15,000,000	3,000,000	..	do de S. Paulo ..	..	80	50 000	..
17,000,000	17,000,000	..	Municipal de Olenas ..	5 000—Jan. 91	..	130 000	..
1,000,000	1,000,000	..	Nova Era Rural ..	10 000—Jan. 91	90	90 000	..
7,000,000	600,000	..	Pastoril Alameda ..	6 000—Ago 90	120	180 000	..
650,000	475,000	..	Pim-plantio de Cal. ..	..	120	55 000	..
2,000,000	400,000	..	Pim-plantio de Cofe ..	10 000—Jan. 91	120	45 000	..
8,000,000	2,400,000	..	Sevicos Maritimos ..	8 000—Jan. 91	80	..	..
10,000,000	9,000,000	..	Tamens Brasileira ..	3 000—Jan. 91	80	70 000	..
..	200,000	..	União	200	265 000	..

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" 10	Elbe	Montevideo and Buenos Ayres
" 15	Magdalena	Bahia, Pernambuco, St. Vincent, Lisbon, Vigo, Southampton and Antwerp.

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